

1 AN ACT concerning public utilities.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Public Utilities Act is amended by adding
5 Section 20-125 as follows:

6 (220 ILCS 5/20-125 new)

7 Sec. 20-125. Residential and small commercial retail
8 natural gas competition. Within 12 months after the effective
9 date of this amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly, the
10 Director shall conduct research, gather input from all
11 interested parties, and develop and present to the Commission,
12 the General Assembly, and the Governor a detailed plan designed
13 to promote, in the most expeditious manner possible, retail
14 natural gas competition for residential and small commercial
15 natural gas consumers while maintaining safe, reliable, and
16 affordable service. The plan shall include an analysis of the
17 municipal aggregation of electric consumers, its impact on
18 savings to consumers, any suggested improvements, and how a
19 municipal aggregation program could assist natural gas
20 consumers.

21 Interested parties shall be given the opportunity to review
22 the plan and provide written comments regarding the plan prior
23 to its submission to the Commission, the General Assembly, and

1 the Governor. Any written comments received by the Office shall
2 be posted on the Commission's website. The final plan submitted
3 to the Commission, the General Assembly, and the Governor must
4 include summaries of any written comments and must also be
5 posted on the Commission's website.

6 To the extent the plan calls for Commission action, the
7 Commission shall initiate any proceeding or proceedings called
8 for in the final plan within 60 days after receipt of the final
9 plan and complete those proceedings within 11 months after
10 their initiation.

11 Nothing in this Section shall prevent the Commission from
12 acting earlier to remove identified barriers to retail natural
13 gas competition for residential and small commercial
14 consumers.

15 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
16 becoming law.